

[words excised] Because of the need for haste in creation of an operational system, only one test missile was launched by ADC personnel prior to the declaration of operational readiness.<sup>489</sup>

The second of what was hoped would be three Combat Training Launches (CTL) per year was accomplished at Johnston Island on 5 April 1965.

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

ANTI-SATELLITE WEAPONS

On 10 June 1964, ADC acquired the capability to destroy hostile satellites as the result of a high priority development program known by the highly un-descriptive title of Program 137. This weapon system was based on Johnston Island in the Pacific. It made use of

"b1" a modified THOR intermediate range ballistic missile as an interceptor. "b1"

Because of the need for haste in creation of an operational system, only one test missile was launched by ADC personnel prior to the declaration of operational readiness. 489

The second or what was hoped would be three Combat Training Launches (CTL) per year was accomplished by Johnston Island on 1 April 1965.

"b1"

11

"b1"

The mission was considered by ADC to be highly successful. The initial CTL in November 1964 had also been considered successful, "b1"

# PARTIAL TRANSCRIPTION - ORIGINAL FOLLOWS

296

[2 lines excised]

Following the CTL of 5 April 1965, one of the two THOR launchers at Johnston Island was turned over to contractor personnel for installation of the modifications required for an advanced 437 test program. This launcher continued to be unavailable for basic 437 use until July 1966. Meanwhile, ADC was engaged in a campaign to provide more test vehicles for CTL use. Six of eight available test missiles had been launched by May 1965 and ADC contended that three CTL missions were required each year to maintain the proficiency of launch crews. This problem was partially solved in September 1965 when DOD authorized the procurement of 16 additional test vehicles for CTL use from Fiscal Year 1966 through Fiscal Year 1971. Half of these, however, were allotted to [excised] an Army effort based at Kwajalein Island.

~~SECRET~~ UNCLASSIFIED

"b1"

Following the CTL of 3 April 1965, one of the two THOR launchers at Johnston Island was turned over to contractor personnel for installation of the modifications required for an advanced 437 test program. This launcher continued to be unavailable for basic 437 use until July 1966. Meanwhile, ADC was engaged in a campaign to provide more test vehicles for CTL use. But at that time available test missiles had been launched by May 1965 and ADC contended that three CTL missions were required each year to maintain the proficiency of launch crews. This problem was partially solved in September 1965 when DOD authorized the procurement of 16 additional test vehicles for CTL use from Fiscal Year 1966 through Fiscal Year 1971. Half of these, however, were allotted to "b1" an Army effort based at Kwajalein Island.

Concurrently, an attempt was also being made to improve the ground guidance system

"b1"

"b1"

UNCLASSIFIED

employed with the THOR boosters in Program 437. The original system used a BTL radar in conjunction with an Athena computer. On 22 March 1965, ADC proposed that this system be improved by use of a Titan I radar and a Univac 642B computer. It was further proposed to establish one such guidance station on Johnson Island, with a similar station, to be used for training and back-up purposes, at Vandenberg AFB, California. The feasibility of this conversion was studied during the remainder of 1965 and eventually won the approval of the various Air Force agencies involved. However, an Air Force request for \$188,000 in emergency construction funds to finance the necessary construction at Johnston Island was refused by OSD in January 1966.

UNCLASSIFIED

297

employed with the THOR boosters in Program 437. The original system used a BTL radar in conjunction with an Athena computer. On 22 March 1965, ADC proposed that this system be improved by use of a Titan I radar and a Univac 642B computer. It was further proposed to establish one such guidance station on Johnston Island, with a similar station, to be used for training and back-up purposes, at Vandenberg AFB, California. The feasibility of this conversion was studied during the remainder of 1965 and eventually won the approval of the various Air Force agencies involved. However, an Air Force request for \$1,000,000 in emergency construction funds to finance the new facility construction at Johnston Island was refused by OSD in January 1966. But a strong reclama on the part of USAF changed the OSD position and on 8 March 1966 the use of funds from the Military Construction Program for Fiscal Year 1966 was authorized. A beneficial occupancy date of March 1967 was established for the Johnston Island facility.<sup>492</sup>

A ground guidance station suitable for ADC needs was available at Vandenberg, but it was

---

UNCLASSIFIED

## PARTIAL TRANSCRIPTION - ORIGINAL FOLLOWS

298

being used by SAC and was about to be transferred to the Space Systems Division (SSD) of AFSC. USAF, in April 1966, asked that sufficient space be provided at this location (Ground Guidance Station No. 6) for ADC to install and operate the equipment it required. As an alternative, SSD suggested that it transfer GGS No. 4 (also at Vandenberg) to ADC on 1 June 1967 and avoid the problems involved in joint occupancy of GGS No. 6. This proposal was not acceptable to ADC, however, and plans were made to occupy a portion of GGS No. 6 as soon as possible. Arrangements were made to send the initial cadre of ADC technicians to the Univac factory for computer logic training on [illeg] July 1966. The plans as regards the Vandenberg station received a setback in

UNCLASSIFIED

298

being used by SAC and was about to be transferred to the Space Systems Division (SSD) of AFSC. USAF, in April 1966, asked that sufficient space be provided at this location (Ground Guidance Station No. 6) for ADC to install and operate the equipment it required. As an alternative, SSD suggested that it transfer GGS No. 4 (also at Vandenberg) to ADC on 1 June 1967 and avoid the problems involved in joint occupancy of GGS No. 6. This proposal was not acceptable to ADC, however, and plans were made to occupy a portion of GGS No. 6 as soon as possible. Arrangements were made to send the initial cadre of ADC technicians to the Center Academy for computer logic training in 15 July 1966. The plans as regards the Vandenberg station received a setback in early July 1966, though, when USAF reported that the Bureau of the Budget had placed a temporary hold on modification funds for the Vandenberg station pending reverification of the need by USAF. Unless these funds were released by early August, the Program 437 ground guidance station at Vandenberg would be unable to meet planned operational dates.<sup>493</sup>

---

UNCLASSIFIED